Standing Committee's views: The Indian Historical Records Commission has already passed resolutions recommending that the States/Union Territories should set up their own Archival Repositories on Modern scientific lines as early as possible (Resolution III, 34th Session and Resolution V, 44th Session).

Out of 22 States and 9 Union Territories 18 States and 3 Union Territories, Delhi, Goa and Pondicherry, have their own Archives Departments. Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Sikkim and Nagaland have set up their archival repositories in recent years, though their progress has not been quite satisfactory. Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar are exploring possibilities of setting up of their own Archives. To expedite matters the Commission's earlier Resolutions can be reiterated.

K. Teaching of Record Languages

11. Resolution by Dr. S.N. Prasad, Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission:

"Mindful of the vital importance and large volume of old records extant in the oriental languages like Persian written in Shikasta script, Modi, Marathi, old Rajasthani, Tamil, Oriya, etc., the Commission urges the Government of India, the State Governments, the archival repositories and the universities to provide facilities and incentives urgently for the study of these languages and scripts."

Explanatory Note: Most of the records concerning the Medieval period found in the various repositories are in Persian, Rajasthani, Marathi, Portuguese, Tamil, etc. Such records are couched in scripts which cannot easily be deciphered and historians have expressed great concern at the fast declining talents in deciphering such scripts. It is, therefore, high time that the concerned authorities should promote teaching of such languages and scripts and provide necessary incentives, if research in our country is to remain record-oriented, and based on original sources.

L. Criterion for Institutional Membership of the Commission

12. Resolution by Shri S.A.I. Tirmizi, Joint Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission:

"Resolved that institutional representation on the Indian Historical Records Commission be generally confined to such institutions as (a) scientifically preserve historical records and throw them open for research, (b) undertake research on and publication of such records and (c) promote and finance historical research based on original sources".